

San Jose Aug. 23^d. 1847

Dear Caroline

I suppose this letter will reach you at Baltimore & I therefore direct it thither. A letter from Lewis & Clark to day received contained the joyful intelligence that you had as you hoped experienced a great & radical change. I have written perhaps to day as much as I should not having been well for a couple of days, but not this to day, but I want this to be off to you & therefore will write the best part of a letter to night, that you may get the intelligence which you will find in some part of this letter. It need not tell you how much I felt rejoiced to read one of the first sentences of the letter Aunt Sarah stood by me in the kitchen & I then began to read alone she wept for joy & it was with difficulty because of the fulness of my heart that I continued to read till I came to the close. I do hope that you are indeed now a child of God in the highest sense of the term & that you will be faithful to death. My heart in the privacy of the chamber gave vent to praises to God for his great mercy. The prayers of your sainted mother & father heard & you a believer in Christ, an obedient subject of divine grace I have had many thoughts in my mind & many petitions have already gone up that you may be directed & guided in your Christian infancy, onward even to the end. This is but the beginning. It is a warfare always we must watch & pray & our strength will be sufficient for every emergency. Religion is like a tender plant that at first will bear but little exposure. Aunt Henry will be able to give you much instruction whilst you are with her - Aunt Susan, Betsy, Eliza, all of them will be able to direct & aid you in the great work that lies before us

taken. You will have the best advisers in those that have been so long
the friends of Christ. And now my sincerest wish you to resolve in the
favor of God that if ~~it is~~ permitted to meet that you will freely assist
me on this most important subject. I may give you much solid advice &
direction. There is sometimes more difficulty in speaking to the nearest friends
than to those that are almost entire strangers. It has always been the case
with me, I trust it will not be the case with you. In your temporal & spir-
itual welfare I need not tell you I am deeply interested & will therefore do
all that lies in my power to aid you on your way to heaven. On the way
you propose to have given your heart up to God I was in Buffalo & per-
haps at the very time that you resolved I may have been making sup-
plication to God in public worship as I officiated that morning for Rev.
Stearns. My prayer is that you may become a bright & burning light
in the Kingdom of God. Edward, Anne & Mary read the letter, & say
it has produced an impression upon their minds that never shall be
effaced. It will I think be good to your most intimate friends here &
may ^{be} the commencement of a brighter day with them. I shall be dis-appoint-
ed if this should not be the case. If you return home & find I disagree you
I should then will be pained. You have many friends that have looked
up to you that you said & did must be right & if you did not serve
God they had not. You were a minister's daughter & we not fathers
& many may have supposed they too were justified in neglecting the calls
of the Saviour. For your therefore I have wished & prayed that my child-
ren might not merely for their own sakes but for the sake of others be
the followers of Jesus. The beginning has been made & I look for good things.
You are & will be of great service to me when I may labor. In my own
family particularly. Your influence with Annie will be great & you may be
much with Edward, he is not so hard of heart that he may not be won over
to Christ. He too may do much good with his companions if he should

become really interested in the cause of Christ. Edward has this morn-
ing returned home having been at the school house near Moberly
Miss Anna has accompanied a young man who attended to my appoint-
ment as I did not deem it my purpose to go there having had some-
thing of a chill yesterday & considerable fever after it, which may have
been nothing more than the effect of a cold which I took in the early part
of the week, have felt so well to day that I write in season this morning
write a long letter to Charles, read some so that you need not feel
easy on my account - at the school house he saw Anna & she says she has
been very much affected. This is just as I expected & I pray God that she may
not rest till she gives herself away to him. Should you have time before
your return please write a letter to Anna Maria, one to Edward & another
to Mary or one for the whole conjointly; it may be for their good. In the ful-
fillment of your first love you may touch a heart that will submit most effec-
tually - I just say that A. G. will write to you this week. About our pleasant
Sabbath school meeting I have not time to tell you, nor of my visit to B. J. -
to the meeting of the Amer. B. and - or my feelings at St. Ingles, the great car-
dinal of the world. There is one thing that I must tell you & that is not so
pleasant a duty, but yet duty it is & you will be the better prepared to
bear it as you can look to God in the trial. Sickneps & death have been
in our village - Sickneps is still here & Sickneps of a friend of yours
one that thinks much of you & what the result may be a few days
may determine. The Lords will be done. His ways are right & just, he
cannot err, recovery may take place - for the case is not a hopeless one
the blessing of God upon the means employed may survive. On my return home
last week I found our little Hemiptera sick, but felt no particular uneasiness
about her - it has only been for the last three or four days that her case has ap-
peared - a meningitis character perhaps longer - It is a bilious affection
& meningitis is dropping in the brain & in this case I think it will be fatal

Of course we are doing all that can be done. Dr. W. is here every morn-
ing & evening & Aunt Sally is with her almost constantly. Aunt gets along very
well, does not complain & I pray that she may be preserved in health. We
thought her rather better this morning. This afternoon & night well, this evening
she has but little fever & lies quietly. She may yet be better. There has been
a difficulty in having the medicine do its work, it may yet answer the desired
end. You shall know after if there continues to be anything serious -
I will write again in the morning & after a day or two again to B.

Friday morning 24th The Dr. has just been here. His pulse he says is
better - her bowels are still unmoved, for some time. She has changed the med-
icine. She had a bad night. This morning she is easy. Do not distress yourself, all
will be right, which ever way it terminates. I feel pretty well this morning
& hope that I shall be well enough to preach on Sabbath. At present the
manifesting is debility. I may escape a chill to day if not I think I shall do
well. The rest are all well. Aunt says she thinks Dr's bowels will be moved
This will be well. On Monday I have in my resignation, I do not know
whether it will be received. I am now preparing to leave at the end of Octo-
ber should this be the arrangement, but have thought of no particular place
In this as well as other things the Lord will direct. The first is the worst
& it is a matter of little moment where we live, so that we are in
the path of duty. Catherine Barrance is to be married next week
May think of being married at Schenectady & going to New York. Mary would
like to accompany any thing but she may not be able to go. For the present
we can say nothing about Aunt & myself returning to your home -
We shall know more hereafter. Be content till the arrangements for
your return shall have been made. Give our love to all. You are
among the kindest of friends at B. I bring my long letter to a close.

The Lord bless you & keep you. Your affectionate father. Had you not bet-
ter spend a little more time at Haverhill & Uxbridge? Your Aunt may feel that
she is delighted if you are with her.
Wm. H. Shale